GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

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*The issue of April 5 was omitted on account of the Easter Holiday.

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KNEADING BREAD ON THE STREET: SEOUL, KOREA (See Bulletin No. 1)

The native bread of Seoul does not seem very attractive to foreigners after they have seen the process by which it is made. However, if its excellence were alone dependent on the thoroughness with which it is kneaded, the bread which "mother used to make" would suffer by comparison. After mixing, the dough is placed on a board in the road in front of the little bakeshop. Then two stalwart Koreans proceed to pound it with great beetles. It is not claimed that the quality of the bread is improved by the addition of impurities in the way of insects and dust which naturally result from the open-air treatment, but if one objects to eating it, a native will quote a proverb which, being interpreted, runs "He who would enjoy his food should not look over the kitchen wall"—a maxim not without force in countries occidental.

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Korea: Where Present Meets Past

BECAUSE of the agitation concerning the political future of Korea, and the charges of foreign persecutions there, the following extract from a communication by Roy C. Andrews to the National Geographic Society is of timely interest:

"Although Korea has a civilization extending nearly 4,000 years into the past, many of the natives in the north have never seen a white man," says Mr. Andrews.

"They are living among the hills today much as did their ancestors centuries ago, worshipping mythical gods in the rocks and trees on every mountaintop, keeping their women in semi-slavery, and dying in ignorance that beyond the narrow confines of their own peninsula lies a world replete with undreamed-of wonders.

"Wrapped in the mantle of Oriental seclusion, for centuries Korea successfully guarded the secrets of her mountains and her people; but at last the clamor of foreigners at her doors could no longer be stilled, and she yielded reluctantly inch by inch, although realizing that the foundations of her weak government were crumbling beneath her.

United States Opens Way for Foreign Visitors

"It was in 1882 that the first treaty with Korea was signed by the United States, and foreigners took up their residence with official sanction at Chemulpo, the seaport of the capital, Seoul. Even with this foothold in the new country the unwelcome visitors pushed their way but slowly into other parts of the kingdom, and as late as 1897 only a relatively small portion had been visited by white men.

"After the Russian-Japanese war of 1904, however, when the country was freely opened to foreigners and its railway had been completed, the exploration of the northern part progressed by leaps and bounds, until the only extensive unknown area lay along the north central boundary between the Tumen and Yalu rivers.

"This was said to be a region of treacherous swamps, densely forested plateaus, and gloomy canons—a vast wilderness, treasuring in its depths the ghostly peak of the Long White Mountain, wonderfully beautiful in its robes of glistening pumice. The secret of its summit, where the 'Dragon Prince's Pool' lies far down in the ancient crater, had been learned as early as 1709 by two Jesuit missionaries, coming from the north through Manchuria, but the approaches to its base from the south and west in Korea had never been traversed by a white man.

Walls Tell History of Five Centuries

"Musan was a revelation. Here, on the very edge of Korea, lies this wonderful ancient city, its grim old walls bearing five centuries of history. It was

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FIGHTING THE BIG GRAIN FIRE AT DOW'S ELEVATOR, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

(See Bulletin No. 5)

High-pressure service in the downtown district in New York has all but banished the modern big fire. Giant electric pumps, capable of delivering thirty thousand gallons of water a minute, at a pressure of three hundred pounds to the square inch, represent the "big guns" of the fire department. Under such pressure windows are smashed in, partitions are torn down, merchandise is swept aside, and water is driven into every nook and cranny of a structure afire. The ten pumps of the high-pressure service can deliver a hundred streams at once. Veritable walls of water check a fire's effort to spread. Only a negligible number of New York city's forty fires a day get beyond the buildings in which they originate.

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Flags Help Tell National History

HOW many flags do you recognize?

Though the World War familiarized us with flags of some of the Allies, the average person's repertoire of flags seldom exceeds a dozen.

Yet flags are important, not only as patriotic and artistic emblems, but many times they are symbolical of national history.

For example, the two foreign flags which we perhaps know best of all, those of Great Britain and France, have a rich historical significance, described in the following extracts from "Flags of the World," by Byron McCandless and Gilbert Grosvenor:

"The national flag of the British Empire, the union jack, combines the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick. When the union of the two crowns of England and Scotland took place upon the accession of James VI of Scotland to the English throne as James I, the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, and that of St. George, the patron saint of England, were combined, and all ships were ordered to fly at the maintop the new flag, while at the foretop the English were still to fly the red cross of St. George and the Scots the white cross of St. Andrew.

Origin of the Term "Union Jack"

"This was the first union jack, as it is generally termed, though, strictly speaking, the name of the flag is 'great union,' being a jack only when flown from the jackstaff of a ship of war. James I always signed his name 'Jacques,' and it is believed in many quarters that the jack and the jackstaff of the navy derived their names from that fact. Others contend that 'jack' was used as early as the close of the sixteenth century. Lord Howard's ships in their attack upon the Spanish Armada, in 1588, are described as carrying a 'jack' on the jackstaff, their jack being a small edition of the red cross of St. George.

"That St. George's cross was placed over St. Andrew's was distressing to the Scots, who made it the subject of an appeal to the King. But even a king cannot solve all the problems of heraldry. That art has no way of making two devices on a flag of equal value. If they be put side by side the position next the staff is more honorable than the one remote from it, just as the upper portion of a flag is more honorable than the lower. After the death of Charles I, the union of Scotland and England was dissolved and the ships of parliament reverted to the use of the simple cross of St. George, while those of Scotland took up the cross of St. Andrew again. When Cromwell became protector he restored the union flag, imposing the Irish harp upon its center.

"After the Restoration, Charles II removed the harp, and so the original union flag was revived and continued in that form until 1801, when, upon the legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland, the cross of St. Patrick was incorporated. To combine these crosses without losing the characteristic features of each was not easy. Each had to be distinct and at the same time

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like stepping backward to another world, into a story of the Arabian Nights.

"Few white men have been fortunate enough to wander inland to the gates of this ancient city. During the Russo-Japanese war several Russians took refuge there, and since then a half dozen foreigners have discovered it; but, except for these stragglers, Musan lies unknown to the western world. The great central palace, or reception hall, remains intact, and close by, in partial ruins, is the temple guest-house. The smaller public buildings, the gates, the watch-towers, and, most of all, the walls themselves, each one has its own peculiar fascination, telling its own story or adding a chapter to that of its neighbor.

"We spent nearly three weeks hunting there. These northern tigers are splendid animals, more beautiful than their relatives of India or the Malay Peninsula, and range among the bitterly cold mountains of China, Korea, and Manchuria, far up into Siberia.

Native Drinks Hot Blood as a Tonic

"On the first day's hunt at Hozando a deer was shot. The bullet, passing through both lungs, filled the thorax with clotted blood, and as soon as the animal was opened Paik, my Korean gun-bearer, plunged his face into the half-liquid mass, drinking and eating until the last drop was gone; then removing the steaming red liver, he cut it into slices, swallowing them as fast as possible.

"I was tremendously surprised, but learned afterward that the Koreans believe the blood of a deer or any wild animal, if drunk when warm, to be a splendid tonic. Tigers' claws, whiskers, bones, and teeth are especially valuable, and preparations made from these materials were often given to soldiers before a battle or any especially hazardous enterprise, since they were believed to inculcate great bravery."

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Lands Where Every Year is Leap Year

THE return of a year which leaps forward a day, bringing women a legendary privilege monopolized by man three years out of four, has no significance for women of many lands, since they enjoy that liberty all the time.

The women of few races possess more freedom in this matter than the Hopi Indians of Arizona. A maiden does not woo the man of her choice, but simply and forcibly states her proposition to his mother without any encouragement on his part. Her only preliminary proceeding is to do her hair in two gigantic whorls, one over each ear. This is her announcement that she is going a-courting. These peculiar knots are intended to represent the blossoms of a squash vine, symbol of virginity, but to those untutored in their meaning they resemble huge door knobs set at a rather violent angle. When some debutantes thus announce that they are "out on the carpet," it is said that as many as six or eight of the eligible young men of the tribe literally take to the woods.

Recalls 14-year Courtship of Jacob

After this aggressive young lady has selected her victim and his mother has agreed that he shall be sacrificed, she serves in the house of her future mother-in-law for thirty days grinding meal, very much after the fashion that Jacob of old served fourteen years for Rachel. The poor youth in the meanwhile does not sit idly by, but weaves her wedding garments.

Among the Batus of the Uganda Protectorate of Africa, if a girl is not fortunate enough to be asked in marriage in her home town, she goes to another village and offers herself to some man there. Though not honored in her own country, she at least receives consideration in that of her neighbor, for a woman is an excellent agricultural laborer and a man is not likely to refuse such a business asset.

The Galla woman of the eastern coast of Africa has the rare privilege among savage and half-civilized people of refusing to marry a man who is undesirable to her.

Little is known of the marriage customs of the ancient Egyptians, but we can easily believe that women had at least the privilege of expressing a preference if they did not actually do the proposing, for, if we trust the historian Diodorus, a man promised his wife to grant her complete control over him and to offer no objection to her commands.

African Princesses Choose Their Husbands

Some survival of this liberty of Egyptian women must have permeated other portions of Africa, for princesses on the west coast of that continent whose children may become future rulers choose their own husbands. Nor is a princess limited in her choice to unmarried men. She may just as easily decide upon one who has already entered the marriage state, and the poor

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retain a border which would denote its original ground. To place the red cross of St. Patrick on the white cross of St. Andrew would have obliterated the latter, and vice versa. Therefore it was decided to make the white broader on one side of the red than the other. This breaks the continuity of direction of the arms of St. Patrick's cross, but permits the Irish and Scotish crosses to be distinguished from one another.

The Tricolor of France

"The familiar and inspiring tricolor of France dates from the year that gave the United States its Constitution—1789. The best authorities are doubtful as to the true story of its origin, but there are three principal theories as to the derivation of its combination of colors. The first of these, and the most authentic, is that after the taking of the Bastille, when Lafayette had been appointed by acclamation commander-in-chief of the National Guard, he devised for the Guard a new cockade made of the white of the royal family and the colors of Paris time out of mind, which were and continue to be red and blue. From this cockade, most historians believe, came the French national flag.

"Another version links the tricolor with the three historic flags of France—the blue of the Chape de Martin, the red of the oriflamme, and the white of the Bourbons. It will be recalled that the Chape de Martin was supposed to be the original cloak which St. Martin divided with a beggar at Amiens, which act was followed by a vision of Christ making known to the angels this deed of charity. The chape was in the keeping of the monks of Marmoutier, and Clovis carried it when he conquered Alaric, while Charlemagne bore it at Narbonne.

Scarlet Banner Supplants the Blue of St. Martin

"When the kings of France transferred the seat of government to Paris, the local saint, St. Denis, was held in high honor, and gradually the plain scarlet banner, known as the oriflamme, and kept in the abbey church, supplanted the blue of St. Martin as the national colors. The oriflamme appeared for the last time at the battle of Agincourt, in 1415. The Huguenot party in France adopted the white flag, and when Henry III, came to the throne he made it the royal ensign. His successor, Henry IV, the first king of the Bourbons, adopted it as the national flag.

"The third account of the tricolor's origin is that it is copied from the shield of the Orleans family, as it appeared after Philippe Égalité knocked off the fleur de lis. During the first and second empires, the tricolor became the imperial standard, but in the center of the white stripe was placed the eagle, while all three stripes were richly powdered with the golden bees of the Napoleon family."

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He Found a Way to Keep Cool

YOU heat your house in winter; why not cool it in summer?"

This question occurred to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell when the Washington weather became extremely sizzling.

Former President Taft, when he was in the White House, had a refrigerating device put in the offices, which since has fallen into disuse, but Dr. Bell believes he procured better results by his "home made" cooling arrangement at his Connecticut Ave. residence in the Capital City.

In a communication to the National Geographic Society Dr. Bell describes how he tricked the thermometer out of some 35 degrees—and his story illustrates how an inventor experiments with a problem akin to those which are daily performed in school laboratories.

"We go up to the Arctic regions and heat our houses and live," Dr. Bell explains. "We go down to the tropics and die.

One Reason Why Our Houses Are Warm

"I have found one radical defect in the construction of our houses that absolutely precludes the possibility of cooling them to any great degree. You will readily understand the difficulty when you remember that cold air is heavier than warm air. You can take a bucket of cold air, for example, and carry it about in the summer-time and not spill a drop; but if you make a hole in the bottom of your bucket, then, of course, the cold air will run out.

"I began to think that it might be possible to apply the bucket principle to at least one room in my Washington home, and thus secure a place of retreat in the summer-time. It seemed to be advisable to close up all openings near the bottom of the room to prevent the escape of cold air and open the windows at the top to let out the heated air of the room.

"Now, it so happens that I have in the basement of my home a swimming tank, and it occurred to me that since this tank holds water, it should certainly hold cold air; so I turned the water out to study the situation. The tank seemed to be damp and the sides felt wet and slimy.

First Obstacle to Overcome

"I reflected, however, that the condensation of moisture resulted from the fact that the sides of the tank were cooler than the air admitted. Water vapor will not condense on anything that is warmer than itself, and it occurred to me that if I introduced air that was very much colder than I wanted to use, then it would be warming up in the tank and becoming dryer all the time. It would not deposit moisture on the sides and would actually absorb the moisture there.

"I therefore provided a refrigerator, in which were placed large blocks of ice covered with salt. This was placed in another room at a higher elevation

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fellow has to put away his other wives and become her slave. Moreover, she has the power of life and death over him. He sometimes has only one consolation—he inherits all her property if he is spared until her death.

In north Transylvania, a young peasant woman may give a particular swain a tip that he is the "apple of her eye" by going with him in his cart at the time of the harvesting of the oats to help him carry in his crop. It is said that at this season one sometimes sees a procession of gaily-decorated carts going afield, a willing maid seated in each.

Choice Not Hampered by Finances

One of the obligations of a father in Rumania and Bosnia is to provide so well for his marriageable daughter that when she is presented with a list informing her of the means and qualifications of the eligible young men in the vicinity she will not be hampered by a lack of worldly goods on her own part in making her choice.

In bygone days in India women were sometimes allowed to choose their own husbands. One of their old fairy tales tells of a fair princess who, after a tournament, placed a garland around the neck of a knight who had won her heart.

Among the Eskimos of the east coast of Greenland, a man captures the girl he wants, but from that time on the usual order of things is reversed. He has to exercise the greatest vigilance to prevent her from eloping with any other man whom she may prefer, as this seems to be her privilege. In the northern New Hebrides, a bride who is unhappy seeks the earliest opportunity of running away from her husband and seeking a home with some man she likes better. If her parents cannot induce her to return to the injured husband, they usually send him a pig to soothe his wounded feelings.

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New York City: Training School For Americans

NEW YORK CITY, frequently criticized as a hotbed of alien agitation, is cited by a bulletin of the National Geographic Society for its tremendous service in absorbing our immigrant citizens. The bulletin quotes from a communication by William Joseph Showalter concerning New York's immigration problem as follows:

"Any story of New York begins with its people, and in its vast aggregation of humanity there is a wealth of interest.

"Let those who have been pessimistic about our immigration study New York. It seems unbelievable; but if every resident whose parents were born in America were to leave the city its standing as the second most populous center in the world would not be affected. In other words, the number of immigrants and their children resident in New York is almost equal to the combined populations of Paris and Philadelphia and greater than the combined populations of Chicago and Berlin.

"Three people out of every four in the great metropolis were born under alien flags or are the children of the foreign-born. But who that has studied the situation can gainsay New York's Americanism?

The Little Leaven that Works Mighty Changes

"The story of how the one-fourth of the city's population that is of native ancestry has Americanized the three-fourths that is foreign in birth or parentage is revealed in the schools.

"He who studies at first hand the processes of Americanization and citizen-building finds work being done which would stir the heart of the most unemotional observer. He realizes that all of what is called New York's politics, stories of graft and the like, are but the froth and foam which fleck the waves of the city's life, while beneath runs a deep current of progress and public spirit, which takes form in carefully conceived and splendidly executed health laws, in a school system that has accomplished wonders, in a water system surpassing anything of its kind on earth.

"Along with many other cities, New York long since learned that a vast majority of the children who attend public schools do not go to college afterward.

Vocational Training a Patriotic Force

"From that suggestion developed the idea of vocational education, which is now accomplishing wonders. Perhaps more than any other one agency, it is helping to transform in heart and action the alien life of the metropolis into part and parcel of our body politic. The immigrant's children are being fitted for that economic independence which comes with skilled hands instead

than the tank, and a pipe covered with asbestos paper was employed to lead the cold air into the tank.

The Tank, at Least, Was Cool

"The first effect was the drying of the walls, and then I felt the level of the cold air gradually rising. At last it came over my head. The tank was full, and I found myself immersed in cool air. I felt so cool and comfortable that it seemed difficult to believe that Washington stood sizzling outside. I climbed up the ladder in the swimming tank until my head was above the surface, and then found myself breathing a hot, damp, muggy atmosphere. I therefore speedily retreated into the tank, where I was perfectly cool and comfortable.

"Guided by this experience, I tried another experiment in my house. I put the refrigerator in the attic and led the cold air downward through a pipe covered with asbestos into one of the rooms of the house. The doors were kept shut and the windows were opened at the top. The temperature in that room was perfectly comfortable, about 65 degrees.

"Some years ago the papers were speaking of an ice plant that had been installed in the White House and congratulated the President, then Mr. Taft, upon a temperature of only 80 degrees when the thermometer showed 100 degrees outside. Under similar conditions I enjoyed in my house a temperature of 65 degrees (the ideal temperature), with a delicious feeling of freshness in the air."

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THE KOREANS HAD HOUSES HEATED BY HOT-AIR FURNACES LONG BEFORE WESTERN CIVILIZATION THOUGHT OF SUCH A CONVENIENCE (See Bulletin No. 1)

Each house is raised a foot or two above the ground and a wide flue runs beneath the floor, emerging at the other end in a tall chimney made from a hollow log. Even though the houses are poorly constructed, this method of heating is effective in the severest weather.

of being sent forth from school with untrained hands and poorly trained minds.

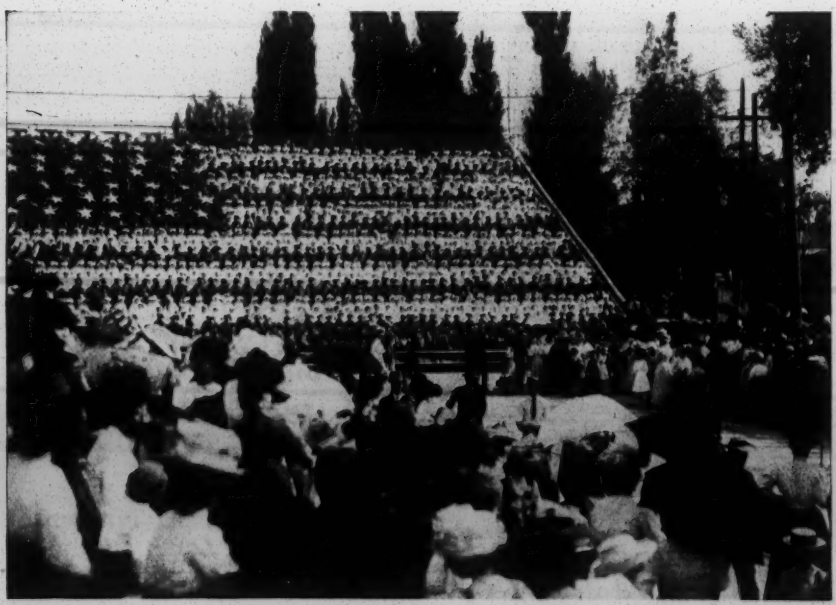
"When one reflects that seven out of every nine children of school age in New York are of immigrant parentage, a situation is disclosed that might be termed startling, especially when it is remembered that the school army of Greater Gotham is so large that if it marched ten abreast in close formation the front rank would be boarding a North River ferryboat when the rear guard was crossing the Schuylkill out of Philadelphia.

City Bears a National Burden Unaided

"It is a staggering task which confronts the city in Americanizing such huge numbers of youthful foreigners. Indeed, did it not happen that New York is so rich—with assessed values greater than those of the next seven cities in America combined—it might well call upon the national government for aid. But with such wealth it is bearing the burden alone and is doing it admirably.

"One might write at length about striking features of the New York public schools, which stand first among all the agencies for Americanizing the immigrant's children. How these schools take seventy odd tongues and substitute good English; how they not only labor to fit boys and girls for intelligent and useful places in the country's great industrial system, but also through employment bureaus bring the trained pupil and the open job together; how they provide every year for the children of an added population equal to that of Memphis, Tennessee—are achievements and problems worthy of consideration by Americans everywhere."

Bulletin No. 5, April 12, 1920



Photograph by Paul Thompson

THE LIVING EMBLEM OF OUR NATIONAL UNION (See Bulletin No. 2)

On many occasions and in many places throughout the United States the effective climax of a civic pageant is the formation of a mammoth living flag by school children wearing the red, white and blue. The great emblem of liberty shown above was formed by the school children of Salt Lake City.

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